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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Copy 14 of 19  
8 January 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the President for National  
Security Affairs

Attorney General

Deputy Secretary of Defense

Under Secretary of State for  
Political Affairs

Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: IDEALIST/TACKLE China Mainland  
Offshore Mission Constraint

1. You will recall that the following question was raised during the 20 December 1969 303 Committee meeting: "How much degradation would occur to the IDEALIST/TACKLE mission product if the current 303 Committee route constraint for these missions was changed from 20 NM offshore from the China mainland to 20 NM from the China mainland offshore islands?"

2. My staff has applied the IDEALIST/TACKLE mission planning parameters to this question and has determined that the mission photography would be significantly degraded in that a 37 to 52 per cent target coverage reduction can be anticipated due to the increased camera to target distances. In addition, the mission product will also be degraded by an unpredictable amount due to the increased oblique angle of the photography and the resultant lack of penetration of the normally encountered haze conditions along the China coast. The movement of the flight path further offshore would in many instances place the aircraft 40 - 60 NM from the mainland

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NRO review(s) completed.

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4. It is recommended that the current 303 Committee  
IDEALIST/TACKLE mission route constraint - "remain 20 NM offshore  
from the China mainland" not be changed.

CARL E. DUCKETT

Director, CIA Reconnaissance Programs

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ADirector of Special Activities

5 Jan 70  
Date

Approval for Release to the 303 Committee:

Richard Helms  
Director, Central Intelligence

9 JAN 1970  
Date

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